REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 2 is canceled. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiners for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview held March 15, 2005. Moreover, Applicants thank the Examiners for their agreement during the personal interview that claim 1, and claims 3-4 and 10-15, which depend from claim 1, would be allowed if the features of claim 2 were incorporated into claim 1. The November 4, 2004 Office Action indicated that claims 5-9 are allowed and that claims 2-4 and 14 are objected to.

As such, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the features of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Moreover, those claims which depend from claim 1, are likewise in condition for allowance at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:JLC/aaw

Date: March 29, 2005

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